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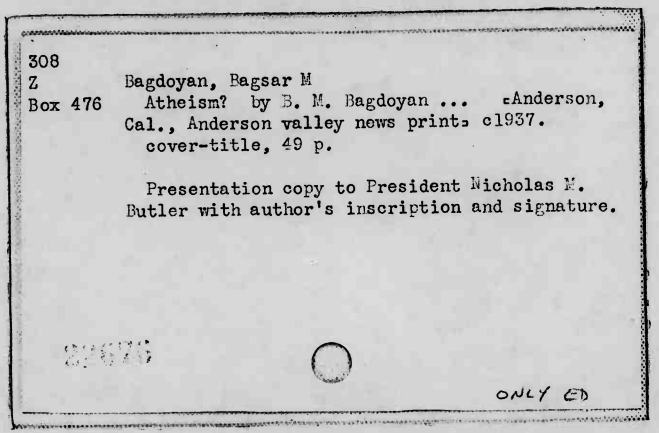

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ATHEISM?

By B. M. Bagdoyan

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This booklet can bring sustained peace and tranquility to the land, and joyful comfort to the struggling and travailing hearts and minds everywhere. Although it is written primarily for the benefit of atheistic thinkers, yet other readers will not be lacking in appreciation of its contents; particularly men and women of higher mental perception and penetration, and of noble motives. However, be fair enough not to pass any judgment upon it, unless and until you have read it clear through conscientiously.

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BUY A GIFT COPY FOR YOUR FRIEND

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June 15, 1937, U. S. A.

To

Pres. Dr. Nicholas M. Butler

Columbia University

New York. N.Y.

From

B.M. Bagdoyan

Nov. 1, 37.

Present address

Redding. Cal.

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B. M. Bagdoyan

ATHEISM?

By Bagsar M. Bagdoyan

AN AWE OF RESPONSIBILITY

My Dear Friend:

It is the midnight hour now. The world is asleep. Darknss has enveloped all around me, but nothing within me. Silence, as though of death, reigns all about me, but not within me. There lies your letter before me which I am to answer. An unspeakable awe trembles my very being, in the hour of momentious events to which the sleeping world soon will be awakened. An awe of duty well done, or carelessly neglected. An awe of responsibility courageously performed, or cowardly abandoned. An awe of decisiveness in not catering to every ghastly whim that blows from so-called human brain. An awe of truthfulness which bends no neck to the knife or the bullet. An awe of audacity that gives no ground even in the face of the firing squad. An awe of clear judgment and sustained faith that knows no ebb, for it is established on the law of righteousness unalterable; sure of her security, positive of her permanency, cognizant of her substantiality, defiant of her veracity, sweetly assured of her immortality, and peacefully awaiting her triumphant and eternal victory.

As I am penning these lines, I feel as well as I do know, in the very depth of my being that an unseen eye watching me, and an unknown hand is recording somewhere, where the records are imperishable, every thought I entertain, every word I write, every suggestion I make, every idea I conceive, every moral principle I uphold or break, and that sometime, maybe in not a

very far off future, I shall be confronted with that record, eiteher to my credit or discredit, and I know which, just as you are confronted with your record at the end of your college year. Your disbelief in this fact does not alter the fact. Your disregard of the law cannot nullify the law. Your conscious or unconscious protest against the law does not make the law of no effect. Neither the laws of universe are subject to time or change, nor to human volition. And this is the law that "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Now, therefore, you may realize, at least to a limited extent, the depth and the weight of my feeling of responsibility of which I am just about to write to you, concerning the statements you make, pro or con, about the already established great facts of the universe, or vacillating theories, as I understand them.

ALLEGORICAL LETTER

You state that, "particularly during the last two years of your college experiecne, almost all of your conceptions, preconceived opinions and ideas have gone through a radical change concerning many subjects, such as the very life itself, religion, science, education, civilization, government, and the like, and that you no longer believe in the existence of God, that you are an atheist, and you are proud of it, and that you are not the only one going through this change of mental attitude, that there are countless of them, and you have solid, concrete foundation under your feet for such a change. You take a defiant attitude against all those ideas and ideals which you once considered sacred. And you add, look at the lives of those people who profess religion, Christianity, moral principles. I do not see much difference between their lives and mine, and even venture to say that I am living a better life than they, for I am practicing what I profess!

Look how they manacle people hand and foot with the chains of fear and of eternal damnation, of hell fire; fear, the very essence of all superstitions and the arch enemy of progress! Look at the monumental lives of many individual atheists, what a stupendous change they have brought about in the lives of peoples and nations in such a miraculously brief period of time, which no religion, neither Christianity has been able to accomplish in the course of centuries, and how the governments and nations established on such foundations and governed by such principles do prosper! And how beautifully the laws of sound justice is administered to all and they have their paradise here instead of in the so-called future existence! Look and see the collosal advances science has made in the inventions in one or two generations which no religion, neither Christianity has been able to perform during thousands of years, and we know too well also that science contradicts all religions and Christianity alike! Look at the history of all Christian nations how they have been stained periodically with the blood of innocent peoples! Even the very rites of your Christian religion and its supposed to be most sacred teachings are perfumed with the blood of a man whom you call Jesus the Christ! In the face of these unquestionable historical facts, can I doubt for a moment that Christian education has failed, and Christian civilization doomed? If so, then, the quicker we abandon it the better it is for the race. Then, we shall begin a new epoch in which we shall be our own law makers, our own judges, our own governors, and our own gods, in our own lives and we shall establish the garden of Eden right here on our own earth instead of in a future imaginary heaven."

My friend, I give you credit for your sincerity and honesty and for your frankness in taking the stand on the principles in which, so far you think, you are

right. I have perfect respect for other's opinions, as much as I would like to have them respect mine, even though they be atheists, if they are honest and sincere, and especially if their motives are not ulterior and their methods subversive, in teaching their doctrines, and if no impulsions exercised upon others once they get in the majority or in power through right methods or wrong. And now since your opinions on the above subjects are not yours alone but shared by many among the rising generations, at least apparently, therefore, I shall endeavor to discuss them in an orderly manner and present them in a printed form whereby whosoever will, may avail themselves of the light of everlasting facts which are the manifestations of eternal Truth in eternal eternity.

However, I shall ask certain things of you and of all as well, who may read this booklet, and that is, to be sincere and honest, and just; to be unbiased, and open minded, in passing judgment, to accept nothing written herein that could not be conscientiously accepted, nor reject anything for the sake of rejecting it if you have been taught contrary to its ideas previously; to put aside all predisposed critical mental attitude and to ascertain the highest motives. Neither you need to enlist others' opinions to assist you in order to form your own judgment. You yourself are endowed with sufficient intelligence to form your own conclusions in the right direction if your mind is free from the mental venom that is being thrown out in every direction and from countless sources in this age, with motives, which if disclosed, would be repulsive to every noble sense of integrity of man. Use your own mental faculties, exercise your own reason, make your own inferences, form the final decision, then, follow the dictates of your own innermost being. And unless you are willing to read this writing in that spirit of freedom and fairness, you might as well abandon it now.

For, otherwise your concept would be elusive, your conclusions defective, and your aim a failure here and beyond. Choose it for yourself. Now you are your own judge, your own law maker, your own God, and I ask you in all earnestness not to be your own executioner too.

NON-EXISTENCE OF GOD

Now we take into consideration first the discussion of the belief of non-existence of God, for all the other subjects are more or less dependent on this primarily and secondarily. In the discussion of this subject, we must first have at least a general definition as to what is meant by the word God that would be acceptable to most. For in the present age there are so many diverse teachings both in the religious or materialistic schools concerning the meaning of that word that what God means to one does not mean the same to another at all. Without going into detailed definition as to what God is according to the beliefs, concepts, understanding, or knowledge of various schools, churches and creeds, without circumscribing ourselves within any prescribed limits and to be acceptable to most in general, whether they be believers or not, we might say that God is, to the believers, and to the supposed to be unbelievers, supreme, infinite, self-existant, omnipotent Being, Power or Principle, that creates, controls, governs, and sustains the entire universe according to His infinite wisdom. Let it be emphasized here again that this definition is given here as a general and universal concept of God accepted by most all peoples. And while in the understanding of the writer this definition of God is embraced, yet the boundaries of that definition would be enlarged with no limits to it. And now it is the existence of this supreme, omnipotent Being, Power or Principle that atheism denies; and, with the assistance of the doctrine of pan-

theism (that universe in its totality is God), he does away, in his belief, with God, his creator, disconnects his relation with the highest, establishes it with the lowest, gives up his prerogative to be the offspring of the Most High, subjugates himself to the monkies or the fungi, descends from the celestial spheres of purity, and wallows in the mire of self-satisfied obscurity, and rejoices in the great advances he has achieved, for he wanted to be his own God. There you have him, arrogant, haughty, obstinate, willful, unforgiving, unmerciful, cruel, barbarous, and even blood-thirsty when in power on his imaginary enemies. An atheist in his shell compressed.

Now, what are the real facts concerning and counteracting the theory of non-existence of God? For in the age we are living, every fact must stand the tests of facts and harmonize with the faculty of reason, which is the highest faculty in human possession, when not abused, and one of the highest that there is in the universe. Moreover, even the faculty of human reason is only a meager avenue through which to reach the consciousness of an atheist, for, even though he will confess to acknowledge reason, yet he will be reluctant to accept the facts unless they are saturated more or less with his own reason. But still that is the only and most effective mental element and channel in our employ. Beyond that they are to be left alone, if they only leave us alone.

FACTS—EXISTENCE

One of the most fundamental, undeniable and unalterable facts in the universe and of the universe is that, the very universe itself EXISTS, or IS. No man ever living, atheist, infidel, or otherwise could dare to contradict this great and eternal fact and still remain within the sphere of sanity.

INTELLIGENCE

The second great fundamental, undeniable, unalterable and supremely comprehensible fact is that, there is manifest intelligence in the universe. And the depth, and the breadth, and the volume, and the light, and the might of this intelligence is so unsearchably unsearchable, and unalterably unalterable that, in the face of this fact even the intellectual giants of this earth—if there really are such creatures anywhere, except in their own mind—become like chaffs before the mighty wind. Intelligence in the depths of heaven, intelligence in the depths of the earth, intelligence in the heights of the sky, intelligence in the bowels of the sea. Intelligence in the stars, intelligence in the flowers. Intelligence in the birth of a comet, intelligence in the birth of a tiny creature. Intelligence inconceivable, immeasurable, inexplicable, intelligence everywhere, penetrating, pervading, permeating all things. Friend, if you are an atheist, or if you think you are, I am asking you, have you ever seriously contemplated about this mighty, stupendous and indestructible fact? And do not answer just now but think it over and wait for more to come.

CREATIONS

The third indestructible and unalterable great fact in the universe is that there are creations therein, from the infinitisimal to the infinite, in size, magnitude, grandeur and glory, visible and invisible. Have you ever thought of it? Have you ever thought of the process in which the tiny bees gather their sweet nectar from a thousand and one flowers of the field? Have you ever studied the courses by which they manufacture it? Have you ever studied the little busy ants in their native habitat? Their races, their professions, their factories, their shifting hands day and night, and the discipline whereof they are behind of no man?

Have you ever watched with an eye to see and with a mind to understand the degree of their untiring efforts and patience even though you had no inclination to emulate them? Have you ever attempted to watch and study and to understand the lives and achievents of the birds of heaven, as well as the beasts of the forest beyond merely admiration of their beauty and comeliness? Have you ever looked upon the face of eternity of heavens in a pitch dark clear night? Have you ever pondered over the gems of fire and sapphire of heavenly hosts which no man can number? Have you ever pondered of immensity, eternity and infinitude designating them? Have you ever pondered of their compositions, revolutions, velocities and the purpose of their creation? Have you ever earnestly directed your mind and appealed to the Power behind all these things to enlighten you? And you say there is no God?

ORDER IN THE UNIVERSE

The fourth undeniable, unalterable and incontestible great fact is that there is order in the universe. Have you ever studied closely the order in budding, growth and maturity of a flower, of a fruit, of a grain of wheat as well as of man? Have you ever studied the order in the ebbs and flows of the mighty ocean, and the rising and falling of mercury? Have you ever thought of what would have happened if our earth was just a little closer to the sun, or farther from it? Have you ever heard of the order with what an infinite wisdom, calculation and precision the heavenly bodies move on from eternity to eternity, and what is the power back of them? Have you ever heard even the infinitisimal part of the unspeakable, wondrous order and majesty of the things encompassing you all around, beneath and above? And you still say there is no God?

POWER IN THE UNIVERSE

The fifth great, fundamental and unalterable fact is that, there is power in the universe. Power within, power without; power beneath, power above; power in the waves, power in the winds; power in the elements, power in the minerals; power in the heavens, power beyond the heavens. There is not a single spot in the immensity of creation where there exists no manifestation of power in one form or another, whether you see it, understand it or not. Have you ever thought of the power of right thinking, of justice, of gentleness, of generosity, of nobility, of meekness; of purity, of innocence, and the overwhelming, overpowering power of love? Friend, if you have not experienced these things in your own life, you have positively no right to deny or to contest the existence of these powers, not even as much as to express any authoritative opinion about them. Have you ever thought of the gentle, yet irresistible power manifested through the germination and growth of the tiny acorn until it becomes the monarch of the forest? See, how that compact and immovable earth pushed aside with the power from within which no man can accomplish. Have you ever thought of the mighty power that rocks to and fro the giant ocean liners as though they were mere children's toys? Have you ever thought of the power contained in the minerals in the bosom of the earth? Have you ever thought of the power at its source that produces sun's rays, the heat and the light without which no earthly life would exist on this planet? All human wisdom, intelligence, engunity of all ages and of all races combined from the time man appeared on the face of the earth until the ages to come, put together shall never be able to lift the Rocky mountains bodily and to put it in the middle of the Atlantic ocean if it was needed; yet consider the countless worlds, planets, some of them incomparably

larger than our earth, traveling in the infinity of space with tremendous speed and governed by laws, and you still say there is no God?

INFINITY OF THE UNIVERSE

The sixth fundamental, undeniable and unalterable great fact is that, the universe is infinitely infinite in every direction as to its magnitude. The astronomical unit of measuring the distances of heavenly bodies is the light year. That is, the distance in which light travels in one year; which is approximately 5,859,000,000,000 miles. The diameter of the galaxy (the Milky Way) to which our sun belongs, is not less than 30,000 light years, which would be the small figure of 175,770,000,000,000,000 miles.

We are told that 75,000,000 galaxies are visible within a distance of estimated to be the tiny figure of 150,000,000 light years, which would be the insignificant figure of 858,850,000,000,000,000,000 miles. Grasp it if you can. Yet, this is only one little corner of the universe in one direction alone. Suppose it was possible for you, in your imagination, though imagination also is positively helpless, to add another one billion ciphers at the end of that insignificant figure above and travel in one direction that many light years in corresponding miles, would you then come to the end of the universe? No sane man can say yes. And even that distance would be only one little corner of the universe in one direction. And this unsearchable, inexplorable infinity is filled with incalculable wonders and glory in every direction, and you still say with your poor, miserable atheistic intellect, that there is no God?

CONSCIOUS WILL IN THE UNIVERSE

The seventh fundamental, unalterable, comprehensible as well as incomprehensible and supremely

supreme fact in the universe is that it IS governed by a conscious WILL. Your lack of understanding does not be-little this fact, your conscious or unconscious denial does not and cannot wipe out the eternal verity. Your misjudgment, that is, if you are an atheist only blinds your own eyes. The law and order and the mathematical precision manifest in the movements of celestial bodies needs no authentication of man. They rather authenticate that man is the outcome of the conscious WILL that governs infinity. Even from human point of view of simple reason and judgment that not a single watch has ever been made without human hands, nor a cathedral erected by itself, all these things we observe must have a conscious will back of it. Who can ever dream of a railroad track being laid of its own accord, or a dirigible manufactured and governed on its own will? Come out in a beautiful clear but dark night and watch the gems of heaven, watch the unnumbered myriads of celestial lights, watch their glory and grandeur which no tongue can deliniate, and you may find the lost link between your soul and your Maker. No, no, universe is not the product of evolution, nor the man is tributary to such flimsy conclusions. Neither the universe in its totality is God. Mental blindness is neither religion, science or progress. To fail to see these immutable glory and splendor all around is like "having eyes ye see not" and that is atheism.

If you do not understand it, it is more manly to acknowledge your ignorance in that line, than to deny the facts that cannot be reasonably denied. Moreover, what natural science reveals in heaven or on earth, what human observation approves, and what human reason bears witness to, are only those that appeal to and are attested by mortal sight, or sense, is like scratching the mere surface of unphatomable depths. For, beyond what we see and observe with our mortal

senses, there is another creation, the spiritual universe, which is incomparably more glorious, and infinitely more permanent than our terrestrial, or even celestial creations we do, or can, observe. However, it is impossible for any man to be even aware of this spiritual universe while his thoughts dwell on limited objects or subjects on his own level, of the earth and earthly. In order to penetrate beyond what you see with your own eyes, or even contact with your reason, you must be born again in thought and in understanding, and your vision must be spiritualized; and this task no man can accomplish for himself, nor any one else can accomplish it for him, for it does not necessarily pertain to human educational systems or processes, although they may be auxiliaries. But the Power that sustains the universe, which you deny is the one that can and will help you and the first step in approaching to that Power in solicitation to help you is to acknowledge His existence, omnipresence and the fact that you are tributary to Him, and take the mental attitude as though of a child to his parents, which you really are. Without this mental attitude of meekness it is impossible for any one to get even a glimpse of spiritual universe, for her gates are opened from within, and atheism shuts off this very entrance at the very outset. Once this door is closed it is just like closing your eyes and ears to the rhythm of music of creation. You can neither see, nor hear. And because you cannot see or hear, you will say no such things exist. But your denial has absolutely no truth, no power and consequently no permanency outside of your own mental orbit.

UNIVERSAL MENTAL LIBERTY

Atheism is a product of human mind, limited and mortal in its nature, character and scope. One of its most fundamental and outstanding, supposed to be, principles is that of "universal mental liberty." It is

supposed to shake off all mental shackles real or imaginary, civil, moral, educational, religious. When in power, however, and while in course of reaching its objective, or accomplishing its ends, then, the very shackles it wanted to abolish, it imposes on others in a tenfold manner.

We must not forget and in fairness we must acknowledge that in reality there is no such thing as positive mental liberty for man on his own hook. Man, that is, the mortal or carnal man, the man who is subject to growth, maturity and decay, is born under the law, lives under the law and dies under the law. And you cannot possibly annihilate the laws which are above you. The very air you breathe is under the law. The very thoughts you entertain are the products of laws. The very purpose you wish to accomplish is governed by law. The very innermost thoughts you think to be your own are more or less governed by laws transmitted to you from others. Man's life in all its processes, and in all its phases from the cradle to the grave is subject to laws. No matter in what line, whether it be educational, business, manufacture, or anything else, man's whole life is encompassed by laws. It is an impossibility of impossibilities to have positive mental freedom in its absolute sense, unless man attunes himself to, and is governed by his Maker, and then he has to acknowledge that he is tributary to that Power which in general term is called God. What man needs is not so much "mental liberty" so-called, but the liberty from despotic tendencies of his fellowmen over him, and atheism cannot give that. Atheism may be likened to a steam engine without its governor, it is bound to run itself to destruction. Human affairs are so closely related to each other in this age, so complicated, so complex, and so interwoven to each other that independent activity and pursuit in any line is well nigh impossible thing regardless whether it is mental, moral,

physical, civil or spiritual, even if you were on a secluded mountain top.

Man does need mental liberty, that is true. But the road leading to it is not in atheistic lawlessness, but in bringing man's nature in harmony to the divine. Atheism takes away individual as well as collective liberties, or assumes the same as the fashion may be, dyes it in its own color, decorates it with phantastic feathers and presents it in different forms at different times and places according to the motive and the end to be accomplished.

Mental liberty for some atheists may mean to get positively loose from all moral restriction and give free range to their lower propensities. To another it may mean to live without working, for it is much easier to rob some one whose industriousness, intelligence and perseverance has accumulated some wealth than to work and earn their living with the sweat of their brow. To still others atheism may mean nothing more than to take revenge on the capitalist. Those things entirely depends on the motives that govern one's feelings. There are mighty few atheists in reality and in number whose convictions in atheism might be based on fundamental principles. Most men who call themselves atheists are not so at all in reality although they believe they are. They are merely followers of some one else who also believes in his turn that he is an atheist. No atheist is an atheist unless he has solid convictions established on solid principles, and atheism has no such principles to stand on. To follow another person or persons without using your own reasoning power and without even seriously thinking about it and then calling yourself an atheist is not the expression of perfect manhood, but only imitation which is nothing shorter than unthinking puppetry of the parrot type.

Now, friend, fairness and fair dealing in everything goes much farther than a new deal under all circumstances. Now while you are reading these lines, no one can see your thoughts and no one knows anything about it, then be fair to yourself and make an examination of your own thoughts and tell the truth to yourself alone. Are you really an atheist from the standpoint of principle? Have you ever thought, examined the subject and formed a clear cut judgment of your own on the question of atheism? Have you ever consulted, seriously, your reasoning, your principles, your conscience, your inner being? If yes, good and well, then, we will be talking as to an atheist. But, if the answer is no, then be fair to yourself and denounce it, for you know you have made a mistake. There is no advantage or goodness to cling to a mistake obstinately because you have once professed it, but there is, beyond fairness, nobility in acknowledging the mistake and retreating from it, like the general in a battle who commands retreat in order to avoid annihilation.

It is a well known fact that an overwhelming proportion of the people who call themselves atheists are recruited, not from among the right thinking and fair dealing classes of peoples, but rather from among discontented, dissatisfied and ill feeling groups in all classes of society, from the tramps on the highways to the college students at the universities, and this is done either through false propaganda or false promises. When in the natural, man, that is, undisciplined, unrefined, uncultured man, in heart, he does not like to think, does not like to labor, does not like to travail, does not like to strive, does not like to persevere, does not like to give, does not like to sacrifice, but still he wants to live, to enjoy, to have all the blessings of life without bringing his share into it. And when he is unable to get what he wants, he takes the sullen attitude that the world in general and the society he lives among in particular owes him a living; and the inability to give satisfaction to his abnormal wants or desires, formed with

false propaganda and false hopes breeds in him bitterness and he becomes a victim of atheism. Ask the tramp on the nation's highways and byways; he readily will tell you how everything and everybody in society is altogether wrong but himself, because the farmer next door was unwilling to feed him because he refused to labor for his food, and his prompt, unsolicited answer for a remedy for all the national ills is "What we need is not God but a dictator." A self styled atheist in nucleus who does not even know the meaning of the word. However, he is right just the same in his own mind. Ask the employees in various lines of manufacture or industry whether it be in an automobile factory, in a ship yard, or in a logging camp, and as a rule you will find out that the ones who are less competent, less ingenusus and less conscientious, are the ones who are more bombastic, more critical and more radical in their views and stand. What is the remedy? Atheism, communism. What are the fruits? Class hatred, destruction, crime, disorganization, artificial famine, starvation and chaos. As though shifting the positions of employees and employers, or substituting one class to another would bring millenium on earth. Ask the students of atheistic societies in colleges, and as a general rule you will find out that the ones who are less industrious and less capable in doing their own independent thinking but wanting to reach their goal of success, of abundance, of name and fame with a shorter route are the ones that are forming the advance guard of atheism. There are few, very, very few indeed who might be considered real atheists from the standpoint of principle. If inner motives of all leading figures among atheists could be exposed to the public view as one's face externally seen, you would plainly see that most of them would have the aspect of whited sepulchres. Of course, I do not mean to say that there are no atheists at all from the point of view of principle,

neither do I claim that atheistic movements are entirely causeless and void. Certainly there are very small minorities, who, at least from their point of view, stand on principle and according to their thinking they have real, substantial causes.

CAUSES LEADING TO ATHEISM

Now, what are the most outstanding causes of atheism, real or imaginary? They may be divided under five major categories, namely, religious, civil, economic, political, principle.

RELIGIOUS CAUSES

It is useless and needless to deny the fact that religious history in many lands has its dark pages. Christianity is no exception to this fact. Yes, even this religion of love and service, such as Christianity is in its essence, has in her history pages that are stained with blood, not of the martyrs and of saints alone, but also the blood that has been spilled by the hand of, so-called, the church authorities, in order to make the temporal power of the same great and permanent; in order to satisfy the unsatiable desire of man for power and ruling. Whether this desire for power, no matter its scale, under the name of "authority," or "superiority" be manifest in the lives of some small country bred Protestant pastors or preachers in a forlorn nook of the land, in obscurity and half starvation, or in the lives of hierarchies of well spread Roman Catholic church living in dazzling splendor, it is the continuation of the same story of WHO SHALL BE THE GREATEST, not in service, not in love, but in authority, in commanding, in ruling, in being served. And atheists make a capital out of these things.

But friend, while we in fairness to principle acknowledge the truth of the foregoing statement, you

also ought to acknowledge in equal fairness to principle, to yourself and to your manliness that, if some of the Christian churches have made one mistake to their discredit, they have on the other hand contributed ten times as much to humanity to their credit. Compare the history of Christian and non-Christian nations and you will need no argument to augment it. In this brief pamphlet we have neither the space nor the facility to enumerate in detail as to what Christianity has done for mankind. However, suffice it to be said here that, no matter how real little civilization mankind has today, no matter how little progress humanity has made, ninety and nine per cent of it should be attributed to Christianity if you really want to be fair and just in your judgment. However, even this point is not the major point as yet concerning your atheistic statements and stand against the religion. The major point is the principle back of the statements. Suppose the religious leaders in all ages have made greater mistakes and committed greater crimes at times, and on account of this when you say there is no God, you are confusing the principle with persons. When you are ignorant, or unaware of the principle of Christianity back of the persons who are supposed to represent it, and therefore make the claims that there is no God, it is just like saying that you never had a father, because you did not know him. As an atheist you may make the statement likewise saying that, even Christianity with its teaching of fear, hell pergatory, lake of fire is keeping the peoples in ignorance, and consequently in subjection. The answer to this is: If any pastor, preacher, or priest is teaching the hell fire and everlasting punishment with a motive of keeping the people in ignorance and in subjection, then he is guilty of crime of great magnitude. However, if his motive is honestly to warn the people of the coming day of judgment according to our works, then that is different. Your disbelief in the day of judgment and

all the proofs and argument in support of your views cannot do away with the day of judgment.

Now you may ask the question, do you yourself also believe in hell fire as some preachers think? To discuss the question of hell fire and brimstone is entirely out of the purpose of this booklet, neither the writer feels competent enough to pass adequate judgment upon that subject. However, the question of **retribution,** in this life or beyond, according to one's conduct in life must be dealt with and a reasonable answer reached.

You, as an atheist deny the fact that there is any beyond. You state that when you die that is the end of your existence; and therefore, no matter how you have lived in this life, good or bad, the grave ends it all. Thus you refute the possibility of any retribution beyond the grave. Myself, as a Christian state the fact that the real life of man is spiritual, and that life in its essence is eternal, and that the grave does not end man's life, and there IS a beyond, and consequently a day of retribution. Which one of these two diverse statements is correct? Both cannot be, for they are diametrically opposite one to another.

Let both of us, for the sake of coming to a fair and just conclusion, put aside, temporarily, our doctrinal points. You put aside your atheism and I my Christianity and let us use plain human reason with no auxiliaries of religion, philosophy, Christian or heathen.

We do know that crime has existed on the face of the earth since the time immemorial and still exists today perhaps beyond any limit it ever existed during the history of man. Of course, it is possible that we may disagree in the meaning or definition as to what things are considered crime or not. But we cannot disagree on the basic fact that crime did and does exist in one form or another. If it had not, we would not have today in the world a single prison, a single court, a single police officer, a single code, nor even a single oragnized

government; neither as many sanitoriums and hospitals, for most of these institutions owe their existence to the fact that, not only they have to keep law and order in operation, but also to keep the criminal elements in society in check. We may ask, what is a crime? Is stealing, robbing a crime? You may say it depends on the motive; but I will say it is a crime, motive or no motive. Is murder a crime? You may answer, it depends on the cause back of it; but I will say, it is a crime, cause or no cause. Is manufacturing, selling, or drinking intoxicating liquor a crime? You may say, why, you are interfering with personal liberty; but I will say, when you are robbing a man not only of his money, but also of his intelligence, honestly and of his character and fitting him to do killing, adultery and suicide, is a double crime no matter how much and how long you play on the string of personal liberty. Is immorality a crime? You may say it depends on your definition as to what immorality means; but I will say, it is a crime definition or no definition. Is hypocracy a crime, whether in the church, in business, or at the courts? You may say, that entirely depends on the situation, on the cause and effect; but I will say, it is a crime, cause or effect, or no effect. Is it a crime to take away the farm of an aged farmer, or the house of a poor man or woman because they have not been able to meet the last one or two small payments in spite of their desire and efforts? You may say, why, legally it is lawful according to their contract; but I will say, it is a crime, contract or no contract. Is it a crime to make intentional, untruthful statements whether the motive is to gain one cent or one million dollars? You may say, it depends on the circumstances; but I will say it is a crime circumstance or no circumstance. Is it a crime to corner up the potato market, the flour market as long as the law has not prohibited it? You may say, no, certainly it is not as long as

the law does not say anything about it; but I will say it is a crime law or no law. Is it a crime to gamble, or to turn the land into a vast gambling house, whether it be on stock-exchange, in horse races, or in a nickel slot machine, or in boxing contests? You may say, why, the law of majority allows it; but I will say, it is a crime, it is a crime just the same. Is it a crime to a criminal lawyer to try to protect a criminal legally at the bar? You may say, why that is his profession; but I will say if the lawyer is doing that well knowing that the criminal is guilty, he is a double criminal, more than the one behind the bar, regardless what famous name he may have even at the nation's capitol. Is it a crime to corner up the nation's food market in any line when there are no laws against it? Is it a crime to shorten or to deliberately destroy the food products, or other essential commodities in order to send up the prices? Is it a crime to compel or to induce farmers to plow under thousands of acres of wheat, corn, or cotton and to pay them for such a destruction no matter what the motive back of it? Is it a crime to compel or to induce farmers to slaughter countless numbers of cattle and hogs that the price may be inflated whereby some may make more money, whereas others may starve? You may say, hold on, hold on, national emergency interests require it, and besides, you are going too far. But I will say, if these things are not crime, then, I like to know what is a crime?

Is it a crime to allow or to encourage wide-spread national industrial strikes, directly or indirectly, causing incalcuable damage and suffering to countless innocent numbers, which could easily be prevented if there were no other motives back of them except a just settlement? You may say, why, I do not see anything wrong in that that is only a national and large scale fight for existence; but I will say, if stealing or setting a house on fire, or murdering on a small scale is a crime, when

those things are done on a large scale do you mean to tell me they cease from being crime? Especially if you have eyes to see behind the surface of the strikes. If you contradict these statements, your attitude would be like one who sentences a man for life, justly, for killing another man, but calls the man a hero who kills five hundred. Moreover, all the crimes ever committed, or being committed, seen or found everywhere put together will never be compared, in porportion of their number, brutality, or ghastliness, with the crimes which human eyes have never seen and never will, and human ears have never heard and never will. Then, do you mean to tell me that, what is done is done, the grave ends it all? And that there is no such thing as retribution beyond the grave?

My atheist friend, you have the perfect right to fool your ownself if you so choose, but others you cannot. That there is a judgment day, a day of retribution beyond the grave you can deny it, but you cannot annihiblate nor alter the fact. Some day you will open your eyes before the Power, who gave you your existence, and you SHALL answer for your deeds. Your sins shall not be hidden, and your crimes, small or big, shall not be forgotten. Your words of defiance against heaven shall be inscribed before your eyes, and your blasphemous utterances against the Almighty shall seal your eternal doom.

ECONOMIC CAUSES

Economic or financial questions are vibrant with stirring emotions according to their nature as to how close they strike home in view of those who are affected thereby. In economical questions atheism has a fertile ground to sow its seeds. Since the times organized governments and societies have existed among human families, there have always been accumulations of

wealth on one side and poverty on the other; and alongside with these there also has been, spoken or unspoken, more or less, antagonism between these groups for various rasons. However, this antagonism unless purposely fanned into conflagration, has never reached to a point of collision, and even if it has, it has been on a minor scale. However, during the recent decades, especially as the result of financial growth of the size and power of capital due to mechanical inventions, the economic or financial questions have taken a new aspect individually and collectively, to the extent that it has become one of the foremost issues in the lives of all civilized nations. In spite of the fact that in all the industrial and capitalistic countries the dinner tables of working classes and their homes have been furnished with food and comforts of life much more abundantly than even the classes next to the richest can hardly afford in the countries where there are no capitalists in the same meaning as we have in our land, still the division between the classes in the former has been widened and deepened due to many conflicting causes.

An industrial emp|loyee can hardly realize the actual condition of the working classes in the countries where there is no capitalism. Nevertheless, this fabulous growth of the power of wealth in the hands of individuals, or small groups of individuals has reached to the extent as to almost control the very life and existence of the public in many instances. This situation naurally, needs remedy and it can be remedied, for even human reason in the sense of justice has not been exhausted as yet. However, whereas under despotic govrnments reforms rarely take place, on the other hand, under representative governments the way to effect reforms is very slow, tedious, and expensive. Nevertheless, it is the safest and the best way for orderly growth and progress for any civilized people in spite of all its faults, provided the bulk of the individ-

uals comprising the nation are innured with the spirit of justice and sound moral principles as to human rights.

Right here, however, comes the main difficulty. In a nation, or country of many millions, the time will never come when there shall cease to be individuals of perverted sense of justice, of moral principles, or of human rights. The sinful, corrupt, selfish, greedy individuals with their hideous views of principle or practice, even under the name of law and principle, will work their way through among the society. And under a representative government where exists freedom of speech, these abnormal mentalities will survive and propagate their abnormal offsprings of thought. It is this element in sheep's clothing that will and is striving to do fishing by first muddying the waters. At the same time they well know the fact that in spite of its many shortcomings, a representative government of the people is supported mainly by the elements among the people who will stand for law and order and it is not so easy to win these elements to their side unless the principles of their right thinking for which they stand is perverted and confused. And what methods can bring about this confusion? If nothing else can, atehism can do it. If you can succeed innoculating atheism into anybody's head you can destroy at least ninety-five per cent of the moral or ethical principles for which that individual would be standing. And that is what exactly is taking place among many college students in many institutions in our land today. College students are special targets for atheism more than others. And considerable number of them who have neither the backbone, nor the preparation for defense are succumbing under the onslaught of atheism, without even realizing as to what is the force or the motive back of atheism. And even if you tell them the majority of them are either incapable to see or understand,

or reluctant to listen; for, obstinacy is an inseparable constitutent of self-centered, self-righteous ignorance.

You will occasionally see, or hear how the sons or daughters of some families of good report have fallen victims to atheism and turned even against their own parents because they happened to be rich or patriotic. Atheism can do it, for it recognizes no sacred principles, and that is the shortest route for the powers of darkness that are standing behind it to accomplish their sinister purposes.

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CAUSES

Society is divided into many classes and stratas, both, socially and politically everywhere. These divisions are due to many causes. Some of them are man made, some of them are made by nature and some of them are the result of man's utilized or unutilized qualities and capacities inherent in him or acquired. Some of these class characteristics are changeable or improvable, while others unalterable. These differenciations you will find are varying and variable, in physical form and outline, in color and complexion, in mental capacities and attributes. Whites and blacks, reds and yellows, talls and shorts, larges and smalls, intelligents and unintelligents are the products of nature due to thousand and one natural causes. We say natural, for atheists will believe in nature though not in God. Whereas, touchables and untouchables, lows and highs, serfs and frees, slaves and masters are made by man. On the other hand superintendents and janitors in factories or the high schools, the watchmen and the presidents in the banks, captains and sailors on the ships, authors of books or of laws and their servants; the senators or congressmen and their footmen, leaders of industries and education and their timekeepers are neither the product of nature nor manmade profiles.

They are the ones who have made themselves through tireless labor, sacrifice and endurance. That is, they have utilized their inherent powers and capacities in their climb to higher posts. Hence the inevitable result, diverging qualifications, characteristics, attributes, peculiarities, temparaments, ups and downs, inherent or acquired.

Some of the by-words, slogans or themes of the atheists are "mental freedom," "political freedom," "equality" and the like. They advocate not only literal or verbal freedom of all races and individuals, at least by their lips, but also the horrible idea of amalgamations of whites and blacks, reds and yellows. Of course, as long as their motive is to reach a certain goal and if atheism promises them success along that line, they will stop at no point. Now, you can readily see that the graduation of nations, societies, classes or individuals are not all man made. If there are inequalities among human societies that are the result of injustice, they surely ought to be corrected according to need and righteousness. However, to try to correct inequalities or differences to which nature alone is responsible from your point of view and God from my standpoint, is unjust, impossible and sometimes hideous. The monsterous idea of amalgamating whites and blacks, reds and yellows socially and racially is the product of abnormal brains—not of intelligence—of atheists. Even if it was possible through physical force that will never accomplish its falacious purpose. It will never do away with classes or groups, and it will never, never equalize the gradations. Even if that also was possible to do, tomorrow you would again see the appearance of that law of gradation at work in every walk and phase of life.

Moreover, for you the nature and for me God has created and graded everything in creation according to their species and according to His will, from the tiny

insects of the field to the multicolor denizens of the ocean; from the eagles of high heaven to the raccoons of the earth, and from man to dumb animals. You cannot wipe out gradations and you never will. It is absurd and monstrous, even to think of it. A crow is a crow, a dove is a dove, a sparrow is a sparrow, a blue bird is a blue bird, a lamb is a lamb, a lion is a lion, and a man is a man; and a white man is a white man, and a negro is a negro, and a yellow man is a yellow man. And just as much respect is due to the black man, and the yellow man, and the red man as to the white man, but all within their own respective spheres, and every other thing also in the same light of justice.

However, if the real motive of the directing minds of atheism behind the curtains was nothing more than a war against God, they would never have attempted to initiate and to propagate deadly hatred between different classes of human societies as they do now. Think it over atheist friend.

PRINCIPLE

In fairness we have to acknowledge the possibility that, there may be a small minority among atheists whose belief, profession, or the theory might be based on principle, at least from their point of view, so far that point of view extends into the essence of things through clear and unadulterated thinking. This minority, no matter how small, however, should not be expected to be found among the unseen leaders of the present atheistic movement standing in the background, but using the secondary, stage-workers', classes to accomplish their purpose driving them as a wedge among the masses of peoples. You know the tool called wedge in itself is of no account. However, being put in a proper and needful place and a sledge hammer behind it, it accomplishes the purpose better than anything else

can. And such is the position of an overwhelming proportion of atheists today. They are carrying out orders from outside, and most of them without even knowing the fact that they are only being used as tools. And even that minority whose views supposed to be based on principle are not free from that dominating influence of their unseen bosses.

You may ask, how do you know that is so? Here is the proof. If any portion of the atheists at anywhere in the world were standing on principle, they would be just as tolerant to others when in power, as others are tolerant to them now. But the fact is just the opposite. When atheists get in power at anywhere, their first and last efforts are directed to silence every opponent real or imaginary by physical force. Not only opposing elements outside of their own ranks, but even those among their own comrades will be silenced with death if they wish. No atheist can deny this fact and be truthful at the same time.

However, let us suppose for a while for the sake of discussion, that in reality there are some atheists, no matter how small in number, who do stand on principle, and who are not influenced by any outside forces or agents; what are the principles on which they stand?

EVOLUTION

Among the supposed principles on which atheism stands, there is one, the theory of evolution. I call it theory for the plain reason that the doctrine of evolution never has and never will pass from the realm of guess or conjecture into the realm of facts. There are men in history and among the living too, so-called of standing, whose lives have given to the world nothing but theories, and it will be unwise to expect that such men will cease from being in existence.

What is evolution? It may be defined in more than one ways, but in general it may be understood to be, a so-called law of matter whereby man, as well as all living creatures have started from the very beginning of their existence in minute cells, germs or protoplasm, and gradually ascended, going through many forms, until they have reached their present stage of development through the eons of time, and according to this theory some men are convinced in their conclusions that man at one time has even passed through the stage of being a monkey. Possibly it will be wise to grant this right to those men who hold this view of evolution that, they themselves must have descended from monkeys, for the very fact that this kind theory can be evolved only in a monkey-mind, and not in a manly mind.

To accept the theory of evolution concerning man or the whole creation would be equal in saying that the cosmos of the universe has been evolved through chaos. How clumsy, how childish, how immature and herdish thinking! It would be hardly worth while even to attempt to argue against such ridiculous theory, if it was not for the fact that there are some honest and upright individuals among the atheists who will be glad to know and to accept the truth.

There are several irreducable and unchalangable facts concerning the creation of man especially, which, when viewed in the light of reason and common sense will throw off the theory of evolution as the scum from a boiling cauldron of right thinking. These facts pertain to the very essence of existence that is manifst in the thinking, moving, and acting being called man. It is this. The very life and intelligence, and the will of man are positively, absolutely immaterial qualities which could not have been emanated from matter, nor become a part of composite material organization. In another word, the life, intelligence, and the will of man,

which are the very essence of consciousness, realization and the ability to pursue a given objetcive or goal, and without which man's existence would be a black spot of vacuity, could not have been originated in or of inaminate senseless matter called cells, germs, or protoplasm. That is, the qualities which you express in life, intelligence, will, consciousness, realization and the ability of recognition and pursuit of the things you want, could have no more existed in a cell or germ, or any such things, than they could have existed in rocks, in metals, or in wood. These qualities are spiritual regardless whether you see it, know it, acknowledge it or not. The facts remain to be facts independent of our individual opinions or convictions. And this is an eternal fact that life and intelligence of man could not have been originated in mindless, inanimate matter, no matter its name. And this great fact of facts knocks down at least one of the main pillars on which atheism stands.

SCIENCE AND RELIGION

The second pillar of atheism is in the statement that "science contradicts the religion," mostly used by parrot type atheists. And it would not be an exaggeration if we say that nearly ninety-nine per cent of this type who so readily declare this statement, as though it was an established fact, as a rule they know positively nothing about either science or religion. In reality there could hardly be found a scientist, who could, or would possibly subscribe to the truth of that statement. Moreover, beside the fact that there are scientists of lower and higher standing, there also are innumerable branches of science and their sub-divisions; and every scientist may be a scientist in his line, but may not have the qualifications at all to express himself authoritatively on the subjects such as religion, life, God, immortality and the like. For example, a

good chemist is a scientist in his line, an artist likewise is a scientist in his line, a dentist, a physician, a lawyer, a surgeon, an economist, or a novelist, who also are scientists in their lines, may have no more right to express themselves on the subjects of existence or non-existence of God, than a brewer who also is a scientist in his line. Even an educator of high standing, or an anatomist of penetrating preception may have absolutely no right to make fundamental or sweeping statements, on those subjects if their scientific knowledge does not extend far beyond their line into the eternal veritus of God and His creation. The faculties of perception and comprehension of those scientists may have been entirely along the material lines, whereas the material side of creation as it appears to be now to many scientists, is only an infinitisimally small part of the unseen, and to material senses intangible, part of the universe which is much more than tangible to those, whose faculties of spiritual conceptions and acquisition have ripened into fruition on those transcendental subjects.

So you see, in plain, simple English language it means this; because a man has written some novels, or books of some kind, or he is the head of a law-school, of even a university, or an authority on political economy, that does not necessarily mean at all that he is capable of advising you or teaching you, on the subject of God's existence. And still above all these things the knowledge of God and His relation to His creation, and to you individually, is a matter of more revelation in your personal experience than teaching or professing. And this revelation you can never obtain until you first acknowledge God's existence, His allness, and get down on your knees as a little child before his parents. Then alone your eyes shall be opened and you will see and know yourself better and enjoy even this present life more.

EVIL IN THE WORLD

The presence of evil in the world in its thousand and one forms is one of the greatest causes of atheism, and apparently a powerful instrument of argument in favor of it in the hands of atheists, big and small. It is the third pillar of it in fact. They see evil everywhere and they know how to magnify it too. Evil in society, evil in government, evil in the church; evil in accidents, evil in sickness, evil in poverty; evil in individual life, evil in collective life, evil in masses; evil in secret, evil openly, evil flagrantly; evil for money, evil for name, evil for fame; evil of notoriety, evil of brazenly, evil of ferocity; evil in birth, evil in life, evil in death; and they quite naturally say, if there was a God, such things surely would not take place. Is it not correct? Is it correct?

Friend, I myself was a so-called atheist at one time, and perhaps I had more reason to be one than you will ever have in your life even if you had to live on this earth a thousand years. How is that? You may ask. Well, it was in 1910 when I left the old country for the United States. My aged mother was weeping for sorrow, and my father and the rest of the family were sad for I was not the first one leaving the warm, precious and comforting atmosphere of home and childhood where I had opened my eyes the first time to the rays of sun and of love. Several other members had preceded me. But among the sadness there still was a mingled gladness, a hope of joy although far in the horizon, and blessings, for I was going to America for education. What a privilege! And that some day I would return home with great rejoicings and honor.

Five weeks later I landed in the United States of America. What a freedom! What a blessedness! Only those who have lived and then escaped from the great and gloomy prison, or grave yard, called Turkey, would

realize the magnitude of the blessings and privileges. A born American cannot even imagine the degree of difference, no, not even half of it. I literally struggled for education unceasingly for I was penniless. And thousand times thanks to the benevolence, hospitality and love of the American people, of her institutions of learning (especially of the University of Maine). I was more than successful in the pursuit of my aim and my heart was swelling with joy unfettered. By 1914 I had put in education several years and the year 1916 looked to be the year in which I would have put the finishing touch of accomplishments needed. Then, the hope of going home, sweet home! But that day never came and never will come on this earth. But a greater one will.

At the time when I left home there were over two million Armenians in Turkish Armenia. At the end of the World War, however, there were hardly one-tenth of that number left, and that too scattered to the four winds of the earth. Fully one million and eight hundred thousand of them were perished. But how? Slaughtered, butchered in a thousand and one devilish ways. Our homes were pillaged totally, our properties were confiscated never to be returned, our men folks were treacherously captured and butchered and tortured to death. Countless of them were buried alive, (If you do not believe, then read the large volume entitled "The Treatment of Armenians In the Ottoman Empire 1915-1916", documents presented to Viscount Grey of Fallodon, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, by Viscount Bryce, with a preface by Viscount Bryce. Printed under the authority of His Majesty's stationary office by Sir Joseph Causton and Sons, London, England, and then think it over a little). Our women were degraded and then sold like oxen or forced into slavery for life, and what small numbers escaped the sword and the fire here and there were up-

rooted from their homes and deported to languish and die in the wilderness. We were ruined, utterly ruined, physically, morally, financially, individually and nationally and in every respect. That was the end of my hope of going home.

Atheist friend, can you possibly imagine the agony, the unspeakable, unutterable agony and anguish of my heart and soul, especially when you realize that these conditions lasted four long years without a possibility of being able to help them?

There was only one thing left for me to do; and that was to avenge myself upon Turks: From that time on the thought of revenge was my dream day and night. The only aim, the only ideal, the only and ultimate goal to bring surcease to my wounded heart. I thought, contemplated, studied and worked to that end. But would I, or could I be able to accomplish my purpose to the extent I wanted? Could I cause death to the enemy by the thousands, ruin to their homes, desolation to their habitations and yet escape myself from being harmed or discovered and watch their misery from afar off? Yes, unquestionably yes; and that single handed too. All I needed was ten to fifteen years for preparation and another ten or fifteen years time to execute righteous judgment upon the enemy from my point of view then. And I had the time, for I was young and the years were ahead of me. The following three years' preparation taught me what I hardly expected to find or to learn in ten years. During these three years I discovered means and ways which would enable me in the years to come, to swim in the blood of the enemy, to walk over their blackened ruins, to spread death and destruction in my path and myself remain behind the curtains, unsuspected, unmolested, and even respected, and laugh at their misery with a fiendish laugh, just as the leading figures of atheists are doing now behind the curtains in many

lands. And I thought then, that there was no power in heaven or on earth, to interfere or to stop me from what I wanted to do, for I was an atheist. Even the word itself tingled my ears and reverberated through my entire being.

But behold, the Power in heaven intervened between me and my cherished goal through the avenues I never suspected, and called me in His name for another task, infinitely greater, infinitely noble, infinitely more satisfying, and infinitely enduring than avenging myself on Turks. That Power, which is the power behind Christianity, reversed the scale and taught me to love. For love, the essence of life, is also the essence of balm which heals all wounds, the essence of matured right thinking, the essence of unequaled justice, the essence of soul satisfying unselfishness; the essence that annihilates greed, gives enduring peace, and everlasting contentment to individuals and nations.

Atheist friend, if you want to live a life that is satisfying, I adjure you first to learn how to love.

Then, when the wounds of my heart were gradually being healed, and more sober contemplations of facts were restored, I re-appraised and re-valued the facts with a deeper reason and greater sense of justice, when, I was confronted with a question within me. It was this: If you had the very opportunity to kill Turks, as they had to kill you, would you have been less cruel, less unmerciful, less ferocious, less barbarous, less brutish than they?

I needed not to answer that question. The answer was too plain. It is true they had given me first the inception, the motive and the example of cruelty and bloodthirstiness during their whole national history of six centuries; yet, no matter the motive or the inceptions, still fact remains to be the fact that I dare not

to say I would have behaved any better. And the only reason I had not done it was, because I had not the opportunity to do. What does that mean? It means plainly this, the evil tendencies I have been complaining of its existence in others, has been in existence in my own self as well; if not in the same proportion at least to a great extent; if not in acts, at least in embryo. In another word, I have been doing my share, if not physically and in a manner that could be seen, at least mentally and just as powerfully, to perpetuate the evil in the world. Have I been innocent? No, not until I became a real Christian. A real follower of the lowly Nazarene, Jesus the Christ.

Now my atheist friend, in the name of fair deal, not a new deal, I am asking and asking you alone; in the quiet sanctuary of your own heart and conscience, without letting anyone else know it, will you please turn the searchlight of truth upon your own self and examine to see if your own thoughts, if your own deeds, if your own life has been any cleaner than those whom you condemn? Has your own character been above reproach always? Have you ever not lied, not cheated, nor born false witness against your fellow men? No one may know your thoughts in the secret recesses of your mind but you know it yourself. Have you truly been upright all your life? You dare not say yes and be truthful at the same time. We all have made our mistakes and you have made yours, and by that very reason you have made yourself actually an accomplice of the evil doer in the world of which you complain. What is the remedy? Atheism? No, friend, no. The remedy is a housecleaning mentally, and you should start that in your own house first (as I have done in my own) instead of in your neighbor's house. Clean your thoughts first. Clean the inside of the platter first, not the outside. Do not be like a whited sepulchre full of rotten bones within.

Yes, we do need reforms, we do need corrections, we do need to be freed from the chains of ignorance, but those improvements should come first from within. Are you doing your share in destroying the evil in your own consciousness first before attempting it in public life. You are your own judge today, but the day will come when you will be judged, you will be weighed in balances when it will be too late to correct; act accordingly.

THE DESIRE TO KNOW ALL THINGS

Man wants to know and to conquer. There seems to be an inherent desire in human nature to know all things and to conquer them. If this desire is not evident in most men, that is not because the desire does not exist, but because the environment has lacked the suitable conditions for its development and appearance.

Man wants to know the past and the future, the origin and the ultimate end of life. He wants to know where he was before he was born and where will he be after he is dead.

Vivisectionist cuts into the nerves and muscles to find out what he is looking for. Anatomist disects the organs of the body to the same purpose. Botanist studies the plants of the fields. Geologist penetrates into the depths of rocks, and minerologist descends into the bowels of the earth. The mariner dives into the unphathomable depths of the ocean, and the astronomer ascends through his telescope into unsearchable heights of heaven. They all want to know and to conquer; some on physical plain, some on mental, and some on spiritual. And the altitude of the plain of thought varies accordingly to the degree of individuals perception, conception and comprehension of realities, not through presuming, however, but through actual knowing.

Yes, man wants to know too as to how this world and the whole universe has come into existence. And

finally he adds, if there is a God, how did He come into existence? And right here looms up the greatest pillar of atheism, apparently based on principle but in reality on helpless ignorance, because he cannot understand all things therefore, he says there is no God.

How sound is the conclusion? The inherent desire in man's heart to know and to conquer, is not an abnormal desire. In fact is a beautiful one. It is the very road on which man has traveled through the ages toward progress and enlightenment. You take away from man the desire to know and to conquer the things, you will destroy all civilization, physical, moral, mental, or spiriutal. Then man will be on the same level with the brute. It is not the desire but the wrong conclusion of the atheistic thinking that is abnormal.

Man never was and never will be more nor less than man. He is not the creator, nor has he the genuine creative power, though much he may claim and insist to be or to have. Universe is not the product of man's mind, nor creation is in the hollow of man's hand. On the contrary man is the product of the creative Mind; he is the outcome of the Power that created, and is sustaining, and governing the universe, and reigns over infinitly and eternity. And man is subject to this Power, or should be if he wants to be of any account.

The greatest mistake of atheistic thinking in this line is this: He forgets that he, as a man, is limited, and yet he tries to know infinity. That will never do. The experience of a physical man, especially if he is not enlightened on spiritual things and subjects, is confined to the things between the birth and the death. His mental horizon extends only on the space stretching out between the cradle and the tomb. He only sees and knows the things which appear to him pallpable or

tangible physically. Beyond that his vision is clouded, his vista is dark. Nothing more exists to him, and therefore, he concludes saying there is no God. Just like a man born and raised in a dark corner of Africa, or Asia, who has never seen even a coal oil lamp light, denies the fact that there can be such a thing as electricity when someone tells him about it, because the idea cannot enter into his head.

Atheist friend, you have positively no right to deny the existence of God because you cannot understand Him; for there are others who do understand, just as you have no right to deny the existence of natural laws which makes possible the operation of radio because you do not understand, for there are others who do understand. Of course you cannot deny that now, but twenty-five years ago you might have.

You have no right to deny the fact that by the operation of God's power through spiritualized thinking of man even the blind does see and the dead are being raised TODAY, because you have not seen it, neither can you understand; for there are others who have seen it and who do understand. You have positively no right to deny the fact that, that Supreme Power called God is communing today with His children close to His heart, in a way that we can see, hear and understand, because you cannot, for there are others who can. You might as well wake up from your stupefying thinking before it is too late, before the total darkness overtakes you and your entity be engulfed, not in oblivion as you profess and expect to be, but in eternal condemnation. For when you disown the Power who created your existence and gave you life, the same power will disown you. Your clinched and upraised fist against heaven will not help you either now or at the moment when the last words "dust thou art and unto dust shall thou return" are pronounced upon you. That very act only belittles you,

just as my blespheming the name of the Most High God at one time when I was in atheistic ignorance myself, belittled me. No friend, no, you can neither know eternity and infinity in its fullness, nor can you conquer it; and God is the everlasting King of both. Blessed be, blessed IS His most holy name forever and ever.

But one thing you can do if you so desire, which is the crown of all knowledge and the trophy of all victories. It is the first and the last of all accomplishments that man needs or should aspire for. And it is the most difficult, though the most beautiful, as well as the most profitable task. It is the conquering of your own SELF. Endeavor to do this, and if you succeed, you will be enriched more than if you had conquered all the great continents of this world.

Endeavor to conquer first your own disbelief, your own doubt in the might of good, your own false pride, your own self importance, your own unforgiving spirit, your own revengeful thought, your own selfish self from within, and then you will be ready to conquer from without, however, not through the force of fear or of sword, but by the all powerful power of love and kindness. You will conquer then not only the elements and the free will of man to do good, but also man's heart. Conquer first your own self. Your wicked tendencies, your mental abuses, your high-minded obstinacy, your nature in perverting justice. These ought to be worthwhile for you to conquer.

Conquer first your own secret sins of which you would be ashamed if they were to be disclosed, your degenerate and fluctuating thinking in adulterating the truth to fit your own aim. Conquer your own self first. Do not get angry and furious at the writer either over these words, for you do know down in your heart that he is telling you the truth. Conquer yourself if you can. It is worth conquering, whereby you may

possess the greatest treasure earth can give. Without this inner victory your life is an absolute failure no matter your outside appearances, especially in your own eyes.

Remember the hour that is sure to come, when all your powers, physical, mental, moral, military, the so-called powers of your mortal self of which you boast, shall be less to you than the dust you once trod. Remember the hour when your body and the brain within, of which you are so proud, shall be given to the worms or the flame to be consumed. Remember at that hour you shall not sink into eternal oblivion, as you profess and expect to, ~~and~~ neither do you wish to in reality. Nor the life you have lived shall be blotted out from the records of the supreme statute book of heaven.

Remember the hour when you shall speak your last incoherent words, and your trembling hands fail to motion, and your eyes become sightless in silent stare, and your heart torpid, inactive and cold; in that hour your real eyes shall be opened and you shall see your own self face to face. Your earthly life shall be before you, your secret motive shall not be hidden, your deeds in the dark shall be lightened by fire, which you cannot quench nor soften as you would long to do. The fire of remorse shall sizzle your heart, the fire of knowing shall benumb your soul, the fire of coming judgment shall eat you bit by bit, and the fire of self condemnation shall have no bounds.

In that hour of eternal despair you also shall remember that, your own free will, while on earth, has chosen the road. That your own reason has mapped the course. That your own conscience has sealed the deed. That your own lips have pronounced the sentence, and your ownself has been the executioner. And these very lines too, which you have been reading, shall be a witness against you on that day, unless you repent now.

Remember likewise that it is not a religious fanatic that is writing these lines to you, but a friend, who is a friend, if you know the meaning of that word as you should. He is not asking a favor of you, he is not expecting to receive any. He has no axe to grind.

Friend, you need not condemn yourself to eternal doom. Someone has paid the full price for your full freedom. You need not pay it again. All you need to do is to relinquish your evil thinking and come to the fountain to be cleansed and purified in the newness of life. You have nothing to lose, except your sins and filth, but all things to gain.

In atheism you are feeding yourself only on the husks of this world, fit for swine, while in God through Christ, you shall be fed on heavenly manna.

WHO, OR WHAT IS CHRIST?

You may ask who is, or what is Christ? You do not believe in God because you do not understand Him. You do not understand Him because you have not been taught. You have not been taught because you are unwilling to learn. You are unwilling to learn because you cannot see anything or anybody else outside of your own all-inclusive small self. However, in the name of principle I ask you to be fair enough for a minute to acknowledge the fact that as human beings we have to learn if we want to make anything our own, and the most self-centered a man is he has to learn that much the more. Have you ever seen a man, a perfect chemist that has become so without being taught, or in one single day? No. Have you ever seen a high grade engineer that has become so without being taught, or in one single day? No. Have you ever seen a capable navigator that has become so without being tutored, or in a single day? No. Then, if these things are true concerning the temporal things

that are material and seen, how much more true they must be concerning the things that are spiritual and unseen. And neither should you forget that to learn anything worth while learning in any line it takes time, energy, labor, perseverence, consecration and sacrifice. If it takes for you at least eight years to go through a high school and a college in order to become an attorney, and anybody can become an attorney if they wanted to; If it takes for you at least eight years after the grammar school in order to receive a doctor's degree, and most anyone can receive that if they labor for it; If it takes for you at least ten to fifteen years to specialize geology, minerology, meteorology, astronomy or any allied sciences in order to be considered somebody in your own line; then tell me friend, by what reason you should expect to learn spiritual things pertaining to God without laboring for it?

You may say, why, I was born in a Christian family, went to Sunday school and attended churches for many years but to be truthful with you, those things do not enter my head now. Yes, friend, yes, it is possible for you to have been born in a Christian family, to have attended Sunday schools and the churches, to have been baptized and attended ceremonial masses too, to have been a student of celebrated preachers, or even to have been the direct scion of the seed of Abraham, and yet be in darkness mentally.

Before the idea or the understanding of God penetrates your head, it must penetrate into your heart. And this can never be accomplished until you approach to the throne of God and kneel down at the foot of the cross of the lowely Nazarene, whose name was and is Jesus the Christ, and in childlike meekness, in the humility of your spirit ask Him to take your hand and raise you up and then follow Him; for He was and is the Christ, the Messiah, the Savior, the Redeemer, the Counselor, the Prince of Peace, the only begotten Son

of God. Not the offspring of blood and flesh as you might think, but the offspring of Spirit, and of Truth, and of Life, and of Love. He shall be your teacher and your guide to God and to eternal life, as well as your Savior from your sins. Without Him you are positively helpless. All your learning, all your endowments, all your powers, all your capacities are of no avail unless at His direction and in God's service.

Now then let us reason together. Would you really want to understand God if you were assured of His existence? Would you be willing to learn if you were convinced of His presence and all-inclusiveness? Would you be willing to be taught as a little child even though if you were the president of a university, or the most powerful potentate of an empire? If your answer is no, your blood shall be upon your own head. You have been duly warned of the coming day of judgment. However, if your answer is yes, then you have to come to the foot of the cross of Jesus the Christ. That is the gate. There is none other which opens to the road that is straight and narrow, which leads to eternal life.

HOW TO ENTER IN?

How to approach to the foot of His cross? Through which church or organization?

It is not a necessity for you nominally to belong to any church for that purpose, unless you are definitely called by Him, in which case He shall direct your steps as He did mine. The first thing for you to do is, to open your heart and to build an altar there in the sacred sanctuary of your being for the living God and offer your own SELF for a sacrafice. This, God will accept. And then invite Him to come and to make abode in your innermost being. Remember, however, that this great task, no matter how simple apparently, can never

be accomplished by your own efforts, hard as you may try. You will be enabled to do this only through the love and cleansing power of the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus the Christ; not a mere good man, nor a great philosopher, nor an ancient sage, but the Son of God literally. Without His help you will make a failure as I have in the past, even though you may endeavor to do your utmost to live the cleanest, purest and the most beneficial life, though this is not possible for an athiest to do.

You may not, or in fact cannot, understand now in your present material thinking, the state or the office of Jesus the Christ in relation to spiritual existence and salvation, and much less His Sonship to God; but time will come when you will understand in His Grace.

The Eternal God in His infinite wisdom has provided a way for the children of men to come to Him, and that way is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Do you understand this? No. Can you believe it? How can I? Then acknowledge the limitedness of your mental capacities in this direction, and in humility kneel down and ask God to help you, a sinner. And ask Jesus, the crucified One, to reveal Himself to you. Without His assistance you can no more understand or grasp the spiritual existence and the spiritual universe, than a fish at the bottom of the see can understand about astronomy or the universe it is dealing with. Be grateful, infinitely grateful for the fact that God has created you above the fishes of the sea, above the fowls of the air, and above all things that creepeth upon the earth. Blessed be, blessed IS His most adorable name throughout eternity.

Friend, through these pages you have just read, God is calling you, His wayward and prodigal child. Hasten to come home to your Father before the sun sets, before the curtain of your life is drawn down and darkness reigns over you. You are a sinner and you

know it. Get down on your knees and ask God to forgive you; and plead the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus the Christ for the remission of your sins, and ask Him to come into your heart, to cleanse, to purify and save you. And, if you are sincere and honest and persistent, your petition shall be accepted. You will be born again, and you will be a partaker of the bread of life that is hidden from the wise and prudent but known unto babes in God through Christ Jesus our Lord. Then the joy unspeakable shall flood your heart, peace that passeth all understanding shall pervade your mind and soul, and love, the queen of life, shall crown your head, and you will sing, and sing, and sing.

I thank Thee O Father Thou hast heard my prayer;
The prayer of my heart, lonely, desolate in sin;
From high heaven Thou hast watched my weary steps;
In deserts of hopes, aimless, without and within.

Thy tender heart has seen a sinner like me;
Wasting his substance in Sodam of miry clay;
In earthen vessels, broken, and decrepit;
Filthy, starving, wounded, captive as I lay.

Then Thy hand of mercy reached down below;
To save the sinner, as cruel, as low, as me;
With Thy long-suffering, forgiving sweet love;
Like a powerful anchor in bottomless sea.

Holding me tight in grasp never to let go;
Though storms rage around me and engulfed in the deep;
Of ignorant sophistry, willful malign;
In self-imposed ignominy, to death, asleep.

But now, O Father in Thy blessed sunshine;
Of Thy love, and grace, and tender mercy I live;
Forgiven, free, joyful, throughout eternity;
To Thy name, to Thee, yes, forever will I cleave.

Now bear me on Thy wings to upward regions;
Above the earth's darkness into the realm of light;
I pray Thee, Blessed One, where Thy saints dwell;
In the light of Thy face, so rich, so sweet, so bright.

Where there is no sin, nor sorrow, neither toil;
In Thy sweet presence Thou king of eternity;
Thy children shall praise and Thy saints adore Thee
Grant, that I too, worship Thee, in that unity!

B. M. BAGDOYAN.

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